

REMARKS

Initially, the Applicants would like to express their appreciation to Examiner Prasad for the courtesies extended to the Applicants' attorney during a telephone interview on May 12, 2003. The following discussion is based upon that interview.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,181,565 to Schmitt et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed. In the rejection, the Examiner alleges that Schmitt et al. shows a circuit card package 10 with a first circuit card 30 with a first card edge connector 30a connected to an interface adaptor board (mother board) 14 by a connector 36 wherein the adaptor board has a card edge connector 34 for mounting another circuit card 32 such that the cards 30, 32 are parallel to each other and orthogonal to the adaptor board. The Examiner further alleges that Schmitt et al. further shows a substantially planar faceplate bracket 38 orthogonal to the circuit cards 30, 32 and having a plurality of openings for accepting the circuit cards by latches 40, 42 and a second bracket member (not numbered) formed by a side and base for supporting the adaptor board and the circuit cards wherein the side and the base are at right angles. The Examiner agrees that Schmitt et al. does not show the connector 36 on the card edge 30a. It is the Examiner's contention that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to provide the connector 36 on the card edge 30a because this would require a mere arrangement of parts, which involve only routine skill in the art. As explained during the aforementioned telephone interview, the Applicants' claimed invention differs from the teachings of Schmitt et al. by more than a mere arrangement of parts. The Examiner's attention is directed to the enclosed

ATTACHMENT A wherein FIG. 1 is a schematic end view showing the arrangement of parts in Schmitt et al. Thus, Schmitt et al. discloses a mother board 14 having card edge connectors 34, 36 into which are inserted parallel circuit cards 30, 32, respectively. This arrangement is conventional in the art. FIG. 2 on ATTACHMENT A schematically illustrates an end view of the Applicants' claimed arrangement. As shown therein, a backplane (unnumbered) has a card edge connector (unnumbered) mounted thereon. The circuit card 12 is connected to that card edge connector. The circuit card 12 has mounted thereon a card edge connector 24, which holds the interface adaptor board 26. The interface adaptor board 26 has card edge connectors 28 mounted thereon which hold the printed circuit cards 17. It is visually apparent that the Applicants' claimed arrangement, as shown in FIG. 2, is markedly different from any teachings of Schmitt et al., as shown in FIG. 1. Thus, Schmitt et al. is totally lacking in any teaching or suggestion of the Applicants' first circuit card 12 with a first card edge connector 24, as set forth in the Applicants' Claim 1, with Claim 2 depending therefrom. Further, Schmitt et al. is totally lacking in any teaching or suggestion of the Applicant's interface adaptor board 26 secured to the first card edge connector 24 on the first circuit card 12, since what the Examiner is calling the adaptor board of Schmitt et al. is the mother board 14 which is not secured to a card edge connector on another circuit card. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that their Claim 1, which is the only independent claim in this application, is clearly patentable over Schmitt et al. Claim 2 depends from Claim 1. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Schmitt et al.

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmitt et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,755,630 to Boyer. This rejection is

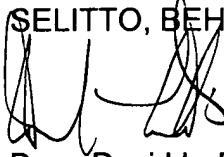
respectfully traversed. Claims 3 and 4 depend from Claim 2, which depends from 1, discussed above. The Examiner cites Boyer for its disclosure of a latch that may include a spring. However, Boyer does not make up for the deficiencies of Schmitt et al. when applied to the Applicants' independent Claim 1, as discussed above. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Schmitt et al. in view of Boyer.

Claims 1-4 remain for consideration in this application. In view of the foregoing discussion, the Applicants submit that all of these claims are clearly allowable and favorable action in that regard is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at (732) 744-1001 (ext. 19) to discuss this matter without the necessity for any further Office Action.

It is believed that no additional fee is due attributable to this Amendment. Should there be any further fees required as a result of this Amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-1218.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encl. (ATTACHMENT A)

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